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DR. A. E. BOYCOTT, F.R.S., has been appointed director of the Graham Research Laboratory, the University of London, in succession to Dr. Charles Bolton.

DR. A. CASTELLANI, distinguished for his researches on pathogenic bacteria, has been elected to a newly established professorship of tropical diseases at the University of Naples.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE HALL OF FAME

THE most accurate expression of opinion of the people of the United States regarding

plorers, with missionaries; surgeons, with physicians; architects, with engineers. Musicians, painters, sculptors, etc., are designated as artists. The order is that of the number of members elected and of votes received. Three elections have been held, in 1900, 1905 and 1910. The number of candidates elected in each and all of these elections, the number of candidates who have received votes, and the percentage of the votes for each class are given in the later columns. A few scattering votes are not included. The last column gives the three highest votes cast in 1910 for candidates not yet elected.

Hall of Fame

Class	Elected				Candidates				Percentages				Votes		
	'00	'05	'10	All	'00	'05	'10	All	'00	'05	'10	All			
Authors.....	4	2	6	12	14	17	15	21	15	27	27	21	45	38	35
Statesmen.....	7	2	1	10	28	23	21	30	25	24	22	24	44	42	41
Soldiers, sailors.....	3	1	...	4	18	16	16	20	11	11	11	11	33	25	25
Preachers.....	3	...	1	4	13	14	14	17	8	7	7	7	20	19	11
Lawyers.....	3	...	...	3	9	6	6	9	8	4	4	6	28	13	13
Inventors.....	2	...	...	2	8	7	8	10	7	4	5	6	28	18	16
Scientists.....	2	...	...	2	9	7	7	9	6	5	5	5	39	26	11
Philanthropists.....	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	3	0	0	2	...	...	...
Educators.....	1	...	...	1	9	6	7	10	5	4	4	4	45	19	10
Artists.....	1	...	...	1	6	6	8	9	4	3	4	4	30	28	7
Missionaries.....	...	...	...	...	9	7	9	9	4	4	4	4	42	15	13
Physicians.....	...	...	...	...	5	5	5	5	2	4	3	3	36	21	14
Engineers.....	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	16	15	6
Business men.....	...	...	...	...	...	10	9	10	0	1	1	1	6	5	4
Others.....	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	16	1	...
All.....	28	5	8	41	134	129	130	166	100	100	100	100	...	...	...

famous Americans is to be found in the elections of the Hall of Fame. This institution has been organized with the greatest care, and, although it is probable that some worthy names are omitted, no unworthy person is likely to be elected. It appears, however, from the following table, that equal prominence is not given to different departments of human knowledge. Steps are being taken in the election of 1915 to remedy this difficulty. It is hoped that it will be successful. The urgent need of the change is the object of this paper. The class is given in the first column of the table. Rulers are included with statesmen; theologians, with preachers; judges, with lawyers; reformers, with philanthropists; ex-

The disparity in the numbers elected from the different classes is very marked. It is hard to believe that there are more famous authors and statesmen than in all other walks of life, or that there are twelve authors more famous than any American missionary, physician, engineer or business man. Apparently, the only reason that the number of statesmen elected was not greater than that of authors, was owing to the greater number of candidates. Among so many, the votes were scattered. The low position in the table of the physicians is noteworthy, and the absence of votes for the philanthropists after two were elected. Under the past system few men could be elected unless they were authors or

statesmen. Of the eleven writers of fiction, nine were elected, while, of the ten authors who wrote on serious subjects, only three were chosen. As the judges are men of literary tastes, they were more familiar with the work of the authors than of men in the other classes. The uniformity of the percentages in different years is very marked. This renders more conspicuous the relatively small vote for authors in 1900. If forty votes had elected in 1910, three of the six who were chosen would have been statesmen.

As the total number of votes cast was 8,645, three fourths of them were wasted; 2,050 votes would have given the forty-one men elected fifty votes each.

EDWARD C. PICKERING

May 25, 1915

A METHOD FOR IMBEDDING SMALL OBJECTS

It is quite a task to carry minute objects, as protozoa or eggs of sea urchins, etc., through the alcohols and get them safely imbedded in paraffin, without losing most if not all of them on the way. Lefevre¹ described a watch crystal designed by him for the purpose of imbedding small objects. This crystal had a small rectangular-shaped slit in the bottom about 12 x 2 x 3 mm. This could be given a thin coat of glycerine and the objects placed in it by means of a pipette, and then the melted paraffin poured over them. When cold the paraffin can be removed with the objects imbedded in the small rectangular block which is easily trimmed for cutting. Lefevre suggested that the objects might be carried through the dehydration stages in the crystal, by drawing off the liquids with a pipette. This however, as later pointed out by Mayer, would remove the possibility of coating the crystal with glycerine and hence make it nearly impossible to remove the paraffin block when cold. Mayer² suggests an improvement by transferring the objects from absolute alcohol into small gelatine capsules. They may be cleared with xylol in the capsule and then melted

paraffin added, and the whole thing cooled in water. The water cools the paraffin and also dissolves away the gelatine capsule, leaving the objects imbedded in a neat cylindrical plug. There are some objections, however, to this method. (1) The great danger of losing the objects during the process of transferring them with a pipette from one reagent to another, and (2) the end of the paraffin cylinder at which the eggs lodge is rounded and hence difficult to cut. This latter obstacle was overcome by Metcalf's suggestion³ of reimbedding the objects in a Lefevre watch glass and hence removing the difficulty of having a round end to the mold. He found this successful with his preparations of *Opalina*. But even still there is great trouble attending the dehydration of these small bodies by transferring them from one watch crystal to another with a pipette or by drawing off the liquids with the pipette and leaving the objects in the dish. To make this task easier I suggest the following method which I have found successful with the eggs of sea urchins and *Cerebratulus lacteus*.

A heavy wooden base is obtained with holes bored in it of a proper size to permit ordinary homeopathic phials to stand upright in them. The size of phial I have found most convenient is about ten centimeters long and three in diameter. These phials are fitted with corks and then filled with the reagents desired in the process of fixation and dehydration. The next step in the preparation is to get some gelatine capsules (5 x 11 mm.) and give them a thin coat of shellac (shellac dissolved in 98 per cent. alcohol). This coat is best applied by immersing the capsules for a minute in a thin solution of the shellac and then standing them up on a flat surface to dry. Care must be taken to see that the capsules are completely immersed in the shellac solution so as to insure the coating of the inside surface. When dry take a fine needle and heat the point red hot and with it pierce a hole in the wall of the capsule about two millimeters from the top and another about three millimeters from the bottom. This is to permit a thorough drainage of the reagents through the capsule. A fine wire can now be fastened to the rim of

¹ *The Jour. of Applied Microscopy*, Vol. V., pp. 2080-2081.

² *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Mikrosk. u. mikr. Technik*, Bd. 24.

³ *Arch. f. Protistenkunde*, Vol. 13, p. 195.